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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

February 24, 2015

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Governor Bullock Appointed to Council of Governors

Council provides for governors and key federal officials input on matters regarding the National Guard, homeland defense and defense support to civil authorities.

Washington, D.C. - Governor Steve Bullock today announced that he has been appointed to the "Council of Governors", a bipartisan council consisting of ten governors – five from each party – that "[I]s intended to serve as a mechanism for governors and key federal officials to address matters pertaining to the National Guard, homeland defense and defense support to civil authorities," according to the National Governors Association.

"I appreciate the opportunity to serve the men and women of our armed forces by virtue of this appointment," said Bullock. "Working with the defense department to fight for the National Guard and to protect our homeland security is an honor."

The council was created by the National Defense Authorization Act for FY2008. It was later established by Executive Order 13528 in January of 2011.

Governor Bullock, along with the other members of the council, attended a meeting at the Pentagon on Friday. During the meeting, the governors stressed to the Deputy Secretary of Defense and service secretaries the critical importance of our National Guard at home and abroad in light of the Army's attempt to cut personnel, many of whom have just returned from serving overseas or helping their neighbors at home. Additionally, they pushed for a defined Guard role in defending our states against the ever rising threat from cyber-attacks.

In addition to the ten governors, the council also includes:

- The Secretary of Defense;
- The Secretary of Homeland Security;
- The Assistant to the President for Homeland Security and Counterterrorism;
- The Assistant to the President for Intergovernmental Affairs and Public Engagement;
- The Assistant Secretary of Defense for Homeland Defense and America's Security Affairs;
- The U.S. Northern Command Commander;
- The Commandant of the Coast Guard; and

- The Chief of the National Guard Bureau.

“Governor Bullock has long been a strong supporter of our Guard men and women,” said Major General Matthew Quinn, Adjutant General of Montana. “This key assignment is indicative of Governor Bullock’s continuing efforts to provide our troops with the support and assets they need to serve and protect Montana and our nation.”

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